
Church in Campbell Weekly News

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THE PREPARATION OF THE SLAVE-SAVIOR FOR HIS REDEMPTIVE SERVICE (1)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE LORD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK

By the end of chapter ten, the Slave-Savior's gospel ministry had been completed. We have seen that the ministry of the Slave-Savior included five matters as the contents of the gospel service: preaching the gospel, teaching the truth, casting out demons, healing the sick, and cleansing the leper. All these matters were completed by the end of chapter ten. Therefore, chapters eleven through sixteen are different in nature from the preceding chapters of the Gospel of Mark. In the last six chapters of this Gospel we no longer have such things as the casting out of demons or the healing of the sick. Instead, in 11:1—14:42 we have the preparation of the Slave-Savior for His redemptive service. Before the Lord could perform His redemptive work, a certain preparation was necessary.

Not many readers of the Gospel of Mark realize that chapter eleven is concerned with the Lord's preparation for His redemptive service. In this chapter the Lord prepared the environment, He prepared those who were to crucify Him, and He also prepared His disciples. The Lord went to Jerusalem for the purpose of accomplishing His redemptive death. But this death required a great preparation. Therefore, the Lord went to Jerusalem ahead of time in order to carry out this preparation, as recorded in 11:1 through 14:42. All that is recorded in these chapters is not accidental. Rather, all the matters recorded here are related to the Slave-Savior's preparation for the accomplishment of His redemptive service.

ENTERING INTO JERUSALEM AND LODGING IN BETHANY

The first aspect of the preparation of the Slave-Savior for His redemptive service was to enter into Jerusalem and lodge in Bethany. Mark 11:1 and 2 say, "And when they came near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sends two of His disciples, and says to them, Go to the village opposite you, and immediately, entering into it, you will find a colt tied, on which no man has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it." Here we see the Slave-Savior's omniscience, which spoke forth His deity.

Verses 7 and 8 say, "And they bring the colt to Jesus and throw their garments on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their garments in the road, and others spread layers of leaves, cutting them out of the fields." "Garments" signify the human virtues of people's conduct. The disciples honored the Slave-Savior by putting their garments on the colt for Him to ride on, and the crowd honored Him by spreading their garments in the road for Him to pass through.

The leaves (v. 8) came from branches of palm trees (John 12:13). Palm branches signify the victorious life (Rev. 7:9) and the satisfaction of enjoying the rich produce of this life, as typified by the feast of tabernacles (Lev. 23:40 ; Neh. 8:15). The crowd used both their garments and the palm tree branches to celebrate the coming of the Slave-Savior.

The Slave-Savior made a glorious entrance and received a warm welcome. This took place according to the Lord's wisdom. As a preparation for His redemptive service, the first thing He arranged was this welcome. By means of this welcome, He received the approval of the people. It was as if He received their vote. The people were in favor of Him and recognized Him as the Messiah.

Mark 11:9 and 10 say, "And those going before and those following cried out, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" The words shouted by the people were quoted from Psalm 118:26, a prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah. Such a declaration will be repeated at the Lord's second coming. At that time, Psalm 118 will be fulfilled in a complete way. When He comes the second time, He will be riding on a cloud, not on a colt, and He will be coming from the heavens, not from Jericho. Then the converted Jews will exclaim, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" What we have in Mark 11:9 and 10 is a foretaste or a prefigure of the welcome the Lord will receive in that day. But in either case the principle is the same in that God's chosen people recognize and acknowledge their Messiah.

The Lord knew that in Jerusalem He would confront many opposers. But before He confronted them, He first received the approval of the people. This was the first step in His preparation for His redemptive service.

THE CURSING OF THE FIG TREE AND THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

In 11:12-26 we have the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple. The Lord saw the fig tree with nothing on it except leaves, and in verse 14 He said to it, "May no one eat fruit of you forever!" After cursing the fig tree, He entered into the temple and "began to cast out those who were selling and buying in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling the doves" (v. 15). Then He said, "Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a den of robbers" (v. 17).

These two actions—the cursing of the fig tree and cleansing of the temple—indicate that the entire nation of Israel, which had been chosen by God for His purpose, had become fruitless and corrupt. The fig tree cursed by the Lord had leaves, but no fruit. It had outward glorification, but it did not have any fruit. It did not have any reality. It had nothing that could satisfy God's desire.

The temple, which should have been a house of prayer for all nations, the Gentiles as well as the Jews, had become a den of robbers. In the sight of God, those worshipping in the temple were robbers. God's house on earth actually had become a den of robbers. Therefore, after cursing the fig tree to end its life, the Lord cleansed the temple in order to eliminate the corruption.

As the Lord was doing these things, no one dared to oppose Him outwardly, for He had already received the people's approval. Concerning this, verse 18 says, "And the chief priests and the scribes heard it, and they sought how they might destroy Him, for they feared Him, for all the crowd was astounded at His teaching." The cursing of the fig tree signifies the terminating of the life of Israel as a nation. From that time onward, the nation of Israel was finished with God's New Testament economy. In addition to cursing the fig tree, the Lord also cleansed the corruption from the house of God.

In the first ten chapters of the Gospel of Mark the Lord was kind, merciful, and compassionate. But here in 11:12-26 it seems that He is very different, first cursing the fig tree and then cleansing the temple, even overturning the tables of the moneychangers. According to verse 16, "He did not permit anyone to carry a vessel through the temple." The Lord was very bold, strong, and even severe. He seemed to show no mercy at all. We need to see that the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple were part of the Slave-Savior's preparation for His redemptive death. He prepared the way for the Pharisees and scribes to put Him to death. It was late in the day when the Lord cleansed the temple. Verse 19 says, "And when it became late, they went outside the city." It is likely that during the night He lodged in Bethany.

THE LORD'S DEALING WITH ISRAEL

In 11:12-26 the Slave-Savior's cursing of the fig tree and His cleansing of the temple are merged. This indicates His dealing with the corrupted and rebellious nation of Israel in different aspects at the same time. The fig tree was a symbol of the nation of Israel, and the temple was its center in its relationship with God. As a fig tree planted by God, it did not bear fruit for Him, and as the center of its relationship with God, the temple was filled with corruption. Hence, the Slave-Savior cursed the fruitless fig tree and cleansed the contaminated temple. Such a dealing may be considered a harbinger of the destruction foretold in 12:9 and 13:2.

THE LORD'S PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE OPPOSERS, AND HIS FOLLOWERS

We have seen that by cursing the fig tree and cleansing the temple the Lord was making the necessary preparations for His redemptive service. In particular, His cleansing of the temple stirred up the chief priests and the scribes, who sought how they might destroy Him (v. 18). Actually, the Lord's cleansing of the temple caused His opposers to speed up their efforts to put Him to death. This work of preparation, hastening the activity of the opposers, insured that the Lord would die on the day of the Passover.

Therefore, the cleansing of the temple certainly was a preparation for the Lord's redemptive death.
(Excerpts from Life- Studies of Mark Message #34&35)

Burdens for Church Prayer

- 2026 Targets, # of baptized:22; # of prayer meeting attendance:35; average Lord's Day and small group attendance:10% increase
- Spread the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel on the WVC campus and by Bible distribution in the community.
- Multiply the number of small groups for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ
- Perfect young working saints with shepherding families as containers for the next generation.
- Practice PSRP, BNPB, and vital small groups.
- Blending in the Body, by participating in conferences and trainings
- Establish and strengthen the church services, including children, YP, ushering, etc.
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing the truth and growth in life to live in the reality of the kingdom.

Announcements

- Life-study of Mark MSG 33, 34
- HWMR: 2025 Winter Training, Week 4
- 5/12 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting at the meeting hall
- 6/13, 8/8 10am.
On-line Lessons on small groups by br. Minoru
- 5/22-5/25 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Dallas, TX. NorCal video conference on 5/23-25, 10:30 am/7:30 pm everyday
- 6/15-19 2026 Bay Area Bible Camp at FSCC. \$85
- 6/29-7/4 Semiannual Training registration by 6/14
- 7/3-7/12 Summer video training at Santa Clara meeting hall

2026 Summer Semiannual Video Training Schedule

Message #	Dates	Time	In-person / online	Comments
1	7/03 (Fri)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	open mtg
2	7/03 (Fri)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	open mtg
3	7/04 (Sat)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	
4	7/04 (Sat)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	
5	7/05 (LD)	1 to 2:30pm	In-person	
6	7/05 (LD)	3 to 4:30pm	In-person	
7	7/07 (Tue)	7:30 to 9pm	online	
8	7/11 (Sat)	9 to 10:30am	In-person	
9	7/11 (Sat)	11 to 12:30pm	In-person	
10	7/11 (Sat)	4 to 5:30pm	In-person	
11	7/12 (LD)	1 to 2:30pm	In-person	
12	7/12 (LD)	3 to 4:30pm	In-person	

- 7/21-26. NorCal Summer School of Truth.
- 7/29-8/2 FSCC. North America Chinese speaking perfecting training, west coast session.
- 9/4-6 NorCal Labor Day Conference held at Burlingame Hyatt
- Financial Giving:
PayPal/Zelle: churchincampbell@gmail.com
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